

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

My name is Jim Thornberry and I am strongly opposed to any measure which reduces competition for DSL service. In my area a primary DSL provider, BellSouth, has already lost a major lawsuit filed by my ISP alledging anticompetitive practices relative to DSL. Eliminating competition in this way rewards BellSouth for actions already found to be illegal and provides a disincentive for BellSouth to either improve service or lower prices. How does this benefit the consumer? How can the national DSL providers claim unfair competition when they own the wires and they set the rates for third party access to those wires? That regulatory agencies are required to prevent these companies charging unreasonable fees to access what is, in effect, a monopoly of access to the consumer says much about their trustworthiness.

There is a reason DSL is exploding as an internet access method. Cable modems provide slower access the more popular that method becomes. Satellite access is relatively expensive. But DSL provides a great value for the average consumer at a relatively high level of performance. The more popular a product or service becomes the greater the need for competition to keep prices down. The DSL market needs to be more open not less.

Sincerely,

Jim Thornberry
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